

**From:** Jason Withrow  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft has done a great deal for this country. It has propelled us to the forefront of the technological age. It has stiffened the economy by creating many well paying jobs, which are a by-product of the great many technological innovations they have introduced, and it has created a standard for which the internet was able to flourish.

Before Microsoft, networks could barely speak to each other, with every subnet running it's own proprietary network kernel. Now, we have a TCP/IP standard, introduced and largely developed by Microsoft.

Let's stop and think where this country would be if it hadn't been for the endeavors of Microsoft. If you think we would be in a better place; history says you are mistaken.

The computing industry has had roughly 20 years to build a better user-friendly, operating system. UNIX, BSD, AIX, and Linux all have been around longer than Windows and have all failed to achieve the success that Windows has.

Not because of anti-competitive practices, but because Microsoft has a better product that is easy for people to use.

How have they hurt the consumer? I can remember paying \$500 for a copy of Lotus' Office suite and a similar price for Corel's before Microsoft introduced MS Office.

Linux, which has less than a sixth of the features of Windows, sells for only \$20 less.

This is a Capitalistic Republic; the objective of a business is to over-come your competition, not to help them.

An anti-Microsoft decision in this case will be devastating to the economy and to the U.S.'s role of technological innovations.

The only one's that would benefit from an anti-MS decision is Microsoft competitors and state governments that are always looking for a way to collect more money.

As a consultant that has worked on projects for the state of Massachusetts, I find it hard to believe that the government of this commonwealth knows what is good for the industry.

Also, in correspondence with my state Attorney General Reilly, he certainly has had some very unprofessional replies, which seems to imply that he has taken this effort personally. The letter I received from his office in reply to an inquiry I sent about the MS case was nothing more than an angry juvenile rant that reeked of cynicism and offered no legitimate arguments other than hearsay.

An Anti-MS Judgment will set a very bad precedence; it will send the message that competitors are policing the market, not consumers. And that the company that spends the most money lobbying the government will come out the winner in the end. Instead of the company that spends the most time and effort on developing a quality product. None of the Microsoft competitors in this case have a product that even comes close

to the features and ease of use of Microsoft products.

In closing I would just like to say that during these times of uncertainty, we should be standing strong behind our ideals and the tools and vehicles of them. Microsoft is one of the best examples of this Republic's Capitalism, and it should be an encouragement of hope and Patriotism for all American's

Sincerely,  
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